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January 25, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852  
Via Fax: 301-827-6870

RE: DOCKET NUMBER : 98P-0151/CP1

I am strongly opposed to the slaughter of downed animals for inclusion in human food.

For one thing, there is an increased risk for bacterial contamination. Even more serious is the strong evidence that many downed animals are afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to the fatal human illness, CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

There is also the cruelty factory. Downed animals are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises, cuts and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

**This is nothing short of animal abuse!** Besides, industry experts have estimated that the vast majority of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Sincerely,  
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